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THE BAPTIST *Record*

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Sign here, please



Participants in the new series of broadcast advertisements produced by the church information support team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board trade autographs at a reception held in their honor August 21 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The participants — all volunteers — were presented with a video copy of the advertisements and given the opportunity to acquire autographs of new friends made during the June filming. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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By Tim Nicholas, director
MBCB Office of Communication

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) executive committee, in a called meeting on August 17, approved what MBCB executive director Jim Futral called "the beginning of a process" of reorganizing the convention board staff.

Changes approved by the executive committee included increasing Futral's administrative team from two to three positions, promoting an employee to one of those positions, and changing the name of a department.

Beginning immediately, Futral will have

three associate executive directors, each over a division. Where Futral formerly directly supervised the directors of several departments, all department directors now report to an associate executive director.

Barri Shirley, formerly MBCB business administrator, now has the title of associate executive director-business services.

Shirley will continue to supervise the board's Accounting and Personnel Services Department; Office of Communication; Building Maintenance; and Camps and Gulfshore Assembly. This includes overseeing all board-owned physical plants.

Promoted to associate executive director of a newly formed division called Missions Extension is David Michel, formerly director of the MBCB Stewardship and Cooperative Program (CP) Promotion Department.

Futral said Michel's responsibilities include convention board work "that reaches beyond the local church."

Departments under Michel's supervision are Broadcast Services; the Baptist Record; Church-Minister Relations and Annuity; Student Work; Partnership Missions; Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion — which Michel will continue leading for the time being — and the department formerly called Missions Extension and Associational Administration (MEAA).

The new name for MEAA is Strategic Initiatives. "The new department name means that we want to be proactive in making ministries happen," said Futral.

He said department director Don



Shirley



Michel

Wilson and his staff, for instance, will be finding out who is starting new churches and asking, "How can we join with you to get new work started?"

Wilson said he would be rewriting his department's approach "to make it a first strike, quick response operation. We will be developing ways to reach people who are not currently being reached through existing churches."

One of Michel's main responsibilities will be as direct liaison with associational directors of missions. Those responsibilities had been housed with Wilson's department.

Said Wilson, "For the directors of missions, this is the most positive thing that could possibly be done."

The third associate executive director's position has not been filled, Futral said. Eugene Dobbs, who retired earlier this year after serving as MBCB executive assistant, supervised departments in that area.

The associate executive director yet to be named will supervise the Church Ministries division. Departments working under that division are Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries; Woman's Missionary Union; Discipleship and Family Ministry; Church Music; Sunday School; Evangelism; and Men's Ministry (formerly Brotherhood).

Said Futral of the changes, "Our desire is that the organization be structured to meet the needs of the churches and associations. We want the organization serving the people rather than the people serving the organization."

Michel said his new position is an expansion of his long-term role in mission support through CP promotion.

"I look forward to collaborating with other missions leaders in a strategic network that includes both statewide and global proportions," said Michel. "The challenge of facilitating this far-reaching partnership will demand vigorous adherence to the Gospel of Christ and renewed dependence upon God's Spirit."

Jones to retire from Christian Action Comm.

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Paul Griffin Jones II, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) for nearly 18 years, announced August 18 that he will retire from that position in order to "explore new places of witness and service to our Lord and to his people."

CAC senior consultant Elizabeth K. Holmes was appointed by CAC trustees to serve as office manager while the search for a new executive director takes shape.

In his letter of retirement submitted August 18 to CAC trustees, Jones said, "You have

been friends and colleagues to me and advocates of the work of the CAC... You have made my tenure of service challenging and rewarding, and I will miss working with you through the ministry of CAC."

Jones said in a subsequent statement to The Baptist Record that he and his wife Sandra are looking forward to spending more time with their children and grandchildren, who are in the process

of moving from Texas back to the greater Jackson area.

"Retirement provides me the opportunity to do all the things that I have put on hold for so many years," he pointed out.

James A. Walters, CAC trustee chairman and pastor of First Church, Foxworth, said trustees accepted Jones' retirement letter with sadness.

"Quite frankly, we trustees will miss Paul. I say with gratitude, 'Thank you, Paul, for the 18 years of your life given to help us do ministry for Christ. Your leadership and contribution to Mississippi Baptist Convention concerns through CAC has helped make us one of the most effective agencies in

the state convention."

Jones, 56, was licensed in 1962 and ordained in 1967 at First Church, Decatur, Ga. He is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas (BA '64) and Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth (M.Div '67, Th.D. '76, Ph.D. by transfer '78).

After serving as pastor of churches in Georgia and Texas, Jones was Baptist Student Union director at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth and then chairman of the department of biblical studies at East Texas State University in Commerce.

He resigned his position at the Texas university to assume the CAC directorship in January 1982.



Jones

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**

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Enthusiasm in the right place

On Monday evening of this week, the One-Eyed Monster in the Perkins family room spewed forth yet another professional football game from yet another far-away location. Fans (a word derived from the original word "fanatics," you know), packed tightly together beside total strangers in a modern-day Colosseum, screamed uncontrollably and gyrated wildly as their respective teams took the field. The roar was deafening; the excitement was electrifying.

The appearance of the teams had been preceded by the pregame show, during which every statistic and every snippet of videotape

on the star players were soberly dissected with the seriousness of brain surgery. No measurement went unanalyzed. Commentary focused on the health, fitness, and current mental condition of key players. Coaches were interviewed for their insights on the impending contest.

For all the attention and intensity generated by so many people, a resident of another galaxy surely would have concluded that the fate of the planet's populace was dependent on that one game. It wasn't.

The fate of the planet's populace is dependent on spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, however — and wouldn't it be great if we Christians approached that endeavor with the same eagerness and enthusiasm we so easily impart to our favorite sports team?

Wouldn't it be great if we filled our churches like we fill our stadiums each week, if we shouted the Good News as loudly as we shout the team motto? Wouldn't it be

great if we poured from our churches each week like we pour from our stadiums, filled with excitement for the long campaign and determined to recruit others to our cause?

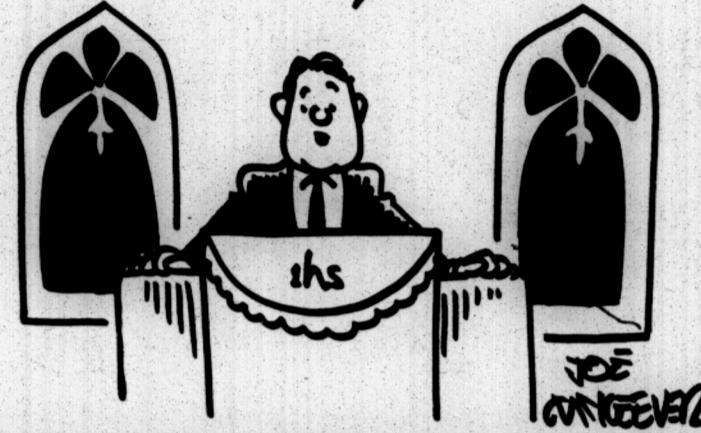
Wouldn't it be great if we dedicated as much of our time, talents, and resources to teaching new believers as we do to indoctrinating new fans of our favorite game?

Tom Lester, a member of First Church, Laurel, who is well-known for his portrayal of "Eb" on the long-running 1970s television series "Green Acres," offered an intriguing idea while speaking at the recent homecoming celebration at New Home Church outside Taylorsville.

Lester observed that there are currently about 15 million Southern Baptists. If each Southern Baptist took his/her Christian responsibility seriously enough to win only one person to Christ annually, there would be 15 million new Christians at the end of the first year alone.

Then, if each of those 30 million Southern Baptists took his/her Christian responsibility seriously enough to win only one person to Christ in the second year, there would be 60 million Christians spreading the Gospel at the beginning of the third year.

"**SOME OF YOU MAY BE TEMPTED TO STAY HOME AND WATCH TONIGHT'S GAME ON TELEVISION. HOWEVER, THE SPIRITUALLY MATURE WILL JOIN US FOR CHURCH TONIGHT AT SIX. INCIDENTALLY, WE WILL MEET IN ROOM 206 INSTEAD OF THE SANCTUARY. DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS."**



That would lead to 120 million Christians witnessing in the fourth year and... well, you do the math. If we all took our Christian responsibility so seriously as to win one person a year to Christ, the entire world could be evangelized in our lifetime.

Think about that. *In our lifetime!* And how much sooner could we make that happen if we all took our Christian responsibility seriously enough to win more than one person per year to Jesus Christ?

Can we somehow, some way, develop as much — yea, more — enthusiasm for that idea as we do for our favorite football team? Can we somehow, some way, get so deep into the Word that we will study it as intensely as we do the newspaper sports section?

Can we somehow, some way, find the courage to stand up in the midst of our mixed-up culture and say, "I'm a big sports fan, but I'm an even bigger Jesus fan. Let me tell you about my Savior."

No one but the Father knows if we have even a lifetime left to accomplish the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Isn't it time we got started by placing our enthusiasm in the right place?

Trustees seek meeting on Coppenger

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — More than a dozen trustees of Midwestern Seminary (MBTS) have asked for a special called meeting of the trustee board regarding the leadership of President Mark Coppenger. Trustee leadership tried to schedule a full board meeting Sept. 2-3 in Kansas City but the dates apparently didn't work out, a trustee told Baptist Press Aug. 20.

Midwestern trustee chairman Carl Weiser, a pastor in Lynchburg, Va., was out of town and unavailable for comment by Baptist Press deadline Aug. 20. Seminary President Mark Coppenger was in a staff retreat and likewise unavailable, according to seminary officials.

Seminary bylaws allow for special

called meetings, and enough trustees signed a request to require trustee leadership to call the meeting, Baptist Press was told, although the exact number of trustees signing the request has not been made public.

The seminary's trustee executive committee voted July 30 on specific recommendations or steps to repentance and restoration by Coppenger to take following his expression of repentance for "misappropriation of anger."

Trustee chairman Weiser said the "committee is prayerful that the exercise of the biblical process will serve as an example to the students, faculty, and trustees of Midwestern and others."

sion and interest that you always expressed to me and to my family. You have made my tenure of service challenging and rewarding, and I will miss working with you through the ministry of the Christian Action Commission. Your love and prayers will always be treasured and appreciated.

I pledge to pray for you as you search for a new executive director and likewise to pray for that person as he begins his service under your guidance. I would request your prayers for me and my family as I begin new opportunities of service. May our Lord bless each of you, your family, and your service to him. Thank you for sharing these years with me.

Jones can be contacted at 3 Dove Way Circle, Clinton, MS 39056.

Thank you for sharing the years

By Paul G. Jones II
former executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Christian Action
Commission



utive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. The possibility of service in some private sector position, in non-elective government service, or returning to the local church all present a unique possibility for me to express my gifts and resources in new and vibrant ways. I could

hope that even as I come to the latter years of my life and ministry that I could make some unique contribution to our Lord and his people.

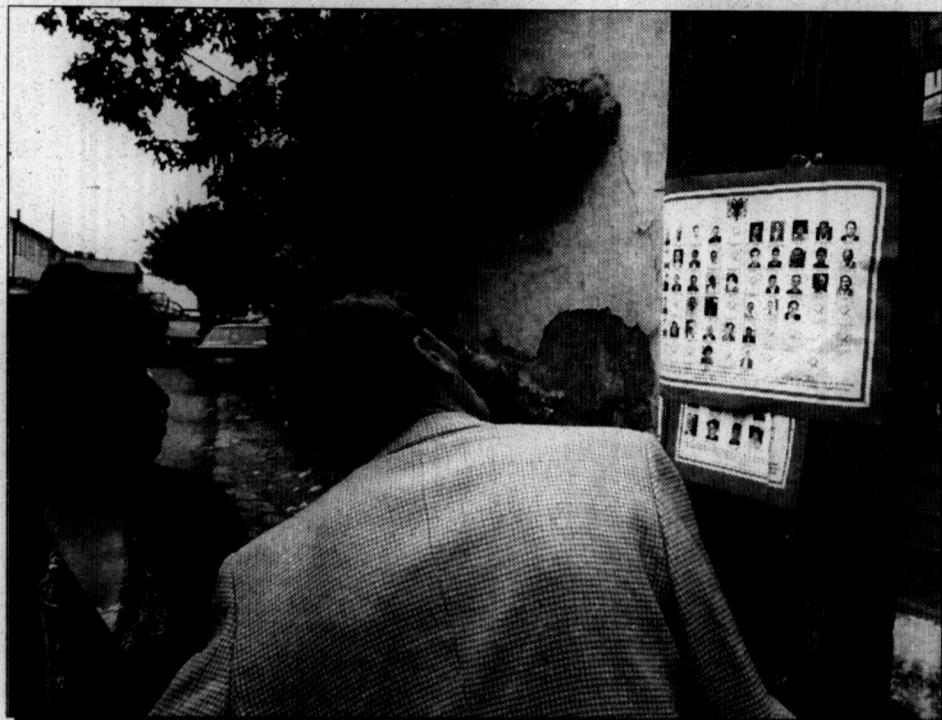
You have been friends and colleagues to me and advocates of the work of the Christian Action Commission. You will always be deeply appreciated for the compas-

Kosovo: heartache in need of God's healing

PRISTINA, Kosovo (BP) — The hillside is a clutter of homes and patchwork yards. Below, the city Pristina simmers in summer heat.

The yearling bull stands in one small yard. It is a healthy animal: skin taut, stretched smooth across a muscled frame. The carcasses of cattle — killed and left in the fields to rot by passing Serbian troops — add to the mystery of how this one survived.

This one will feed a family.



GRIM NEWS — As graves are found and bodies identified, death notices are posted on telephone poles, walls, and shop windows. Passers-by stop to see who they know. It is a constant reminder of what they have been through, that the grief they feel is not over. These postings also fan the flames of hatred the Kosovars feel toward the Serbs. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

The end comes with a deft stroke, delivered fast and deep, rendered with a sharpened scythe.

From a street below, a rifle shot sends the "sora," the ubiquitous blackbirds of Kosovo, swirling into the air. The bull's eyes cloud as it sinks to its knees and topples on its side.

It is not an easy death. The lungs heave, gasping for air, and the limbs flail long after the head is separated from the body. Blood soaks the soil.

Anvar's words come in a whisper chill on a sweat-soaked day: "I have seen men slaughtered this way."

Instead, they were herded into a courtyard and executed, their bodies piled up and burned.

Among them was a young woman eight months pregnant.

These may not be all the victims here. Not all the homes and communities in the surrounding woods and nearby mountains have been checked. Not all the refugees have returned. Three hundred fifty are known still to be missing.

Hope for them diminishes with each passing day.

In Pec, while Fitore Gjuka and her children fled into the

mountains, her husband slipped back into their house for a few things and saw two elderly neighbors set on fire and burned to death.

Assad Goga and his family also fled that night. As he talks, his teenage daughter, Pilar, translates. When he tells of his wife's death, Pilar's mouth sets. She draws in. Her eyes take on a faraway cast. He waits for her to go on, but she can't.

Assad turns, holds his fists before him and makes the sound of a machine gun.

Vjollca Demalijay escaped into Montenegro after hiding for days in a Gypsy community. Her husband survived by scaling the wall behind their home while 13 other men, neighbors in the immediate community, died out front.

"He just turned the right way," she says with a sense of guilt. Her life seems too easy, so lucky, she says, when compared with that of her friend Sherine Hoxha.

Her husband was one of the 13. He died while her mother-in-law watched.

"With his death, they took everything from me," she says.

The pain is deep. The losses are great. Everyone has a story. Of children and old folks lost on the long trek over the mountains through the oceans of thigh-deep snow. Of neighbors lost in the

streets. Of some who have simply disappeared. Of sons. Of daughters. Of mothers. Of fathers. Of lifelong friends. It is enough to flee forever.

Yet they return. In sorrow. With memories and images no man nor woman nor child should carry. To gather together. To pick up their shattered lives. To rebuild amid the ruin of their homes and communities.

For the 850,000 refugees returning after fleeing the excesses of Slobodan Milosevic's regime, not all concerns are in the past. Some are immediate; others lie ahead.

Sixty percent of the housing in Kosovo is destroyed. The scorched remains of their houses contain little but ash.

Winter comes quickly. September turns cool. The first snows of winter arrive in late October, early November. There is a need for roofs and windows. And blankets.

Yet each day there is change. Signs of the villages and communities coming to life can be seen in the streets.

In the faces of those who return. In the debris that is shoveled and carted away. In the smell of new wood replacing the odor of ash. In new glass of once-shattered windows. In stores opening again, if only on simple tables stacked with goods and set before the rubble that was once a shop.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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Refugees to return, thanks to Baptist aid

WASHINGTON (BP) — One hundred refugees were to return to Kosovo from Hungary on Aug. 12 with the help of Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance.

BWAid is working with Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid), the International Organization for Migration and the Hungarian government to fly the refugees directly from Budapest to Pristina, Kosovo, reported Paul Montacute, BWAid director.

Looking back

10 years ago

Monroe Association breaks ground on a new office building. The floor plan calls for 3,246 square feet to house a media library, offices, conference rooms, reception area, and a meeting room for up to 100 people. Rick Spencer is Director of Missions.

20 years ago

Over 11,000 young people and adults crowd the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson for Youth Night 1979 to hear comedian Jerry Clower, musicians Don Francisco, Gary Floyd, and Alicia Gatewood, and First Church, Jackson pastor Frank Pollard.

50 years ago

Dedication services are planned next month for the dining hall-activities building at Clarke Memorial College. W. L. Compere, pastor of Northside Church, Jackson, and president of the Baptist-affiliated school's board of trustees, will bring the dedication message.

Casino advertising OK'd

WASHINGTON (BP) — Television and radio advertisements for gambling at commercial, non-Indian casinos will be permitted throughout the United States, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has decided.

In a legal brief filed Aug. 9, the Department of Justice said it would not enforce the law in any of the 50 states, Bloomberg News reported. "The government has concluded that [the ban] may not constitutionally be applied to broadcasters who transmit truthful advertisements for lawful casino gambling, whether the broadcasters are located in a state that permits casino gambling or a state that does not," the DOJ brief said, according to Bloomberg.

Edward Fritts, chief executive officer of the National Association of Broadcasters, hailed the DOJ decision as a "major First Amendment victory" for the broadcast industry, Bloomberg reported.

The Supreme Court previously reviewed a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion upholding the ban as a result of an appeal by the Greater New Orleans Broadcasting Association.

IMB taps Mississippians as missionaries



MISSIONARY NEWS

RICHMOND, Va. — Paul D. Scott Jr. and Shelley Blount Scott have joined the more than 4,700 Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers sharing Christ in 126 countries and among 336 ethnic people groups.

Paul Scott is pastor of Oak Hill Church in Poplarville. Shelley Scott is a homemaker. They consider Savannah, Tenn., their hometown and Hopewell Church in Savannah their home church.

The Scotts were among more than 50 people appointed by the International Mission Board July 29 during a service at Glorieta, a LifeWay conference center, in New Mexico.

The Scotts will live in Maturin, Venezuela, where they will plant churches. Venezuela is a country where missionaries and national Christians working together have made the country a model for other Latin American countries.

The new missionaries will fill diverse job assignments from starting churches to using sports, education, and business as tools of ministry.

In 1998 International Mission Board missionaries helped lead 333,034 people to



P. Scott

S. Scott

Christ. They and their overseas partners started 4,223 churches and reported more than 4.4 million members in 46,833 churches overseas.

Paul Scott was born to David and Dolores Scott in Savannah. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He also served as singles' and children's minister at Hopewell Church and owned and operated Scott's Auto Clean, an auto detailing shop in Savannah.

Shelley Scott was born to Glen and Frances Blount in Savannah. She received the associate in arts degree from Pearl River Community College in Poplarville. She has worked as an art teacher's aide at Parris South Elementary School in Savannah.

The Scotts came to believe God wanted them to be international missionaries when a missionary to South Africa spoke at their church. "During his introduction, God spoke to my heart and said, 'This is what I want you to do.' (God's) call (to serve in missions) cut to the center of my heart, and I knew I had to make a decision," recalled Paul Scott. "On the same day I chose to accept God's call to serve him as an international missionary."

The Scotts have three children: Paul Jordan, born in 1986; Sidney Katherine, 1995; and Joseph Glen, 1998. The family will go to the International Mission Board training center in Rockville, Va., in August for orientation before leaving for overseas.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the largest evangelical denomination in the United States; its International Mission Board is the largest evangelical missionary-sending agency.

Area keyboard festival location changed

The location of the Mississippi Baptist Area Keyboard Festival originally listed for First Church, Brandon, on Thursday, January 27, 2000, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., has been changed to Crossgates Church, Brandon.

For more information, contact the Church Music Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3272 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

BAPTISTS ON THE HIGHWAY

You can go to church and see a group of Baptists but you can also see them on the highway. It appears to me that on the highways in Mississippi most of the drivers are Baptists! I know this, not because we have a sign on our cars, but by the way we drive. I have observed many different kinds of drivers and they pretty much fall into four categories:

1) **"Jerkers"** — Now these people are not jerks, but they drive "jerky." I was driving on the interstate recently and had my car set on cruise right on the speed limit, and a driver passed me going 10-15 mph faster. I never changed speeds and did not change lanes, but about 10 miles later I passed that same car. A few miles later, here he came again. In about a 75-mile stretch this "jerker" sped up, slowed down, sped up, slowed down, and passed me four times.

2) **"Perkers"** — These are folks who get on the road, steady and consistent in speed, and just mosey along.

3) **"Workers"** — These are the drivers, like truck drivers and traveling salespeople, who are on the road not for fun or viewing the scenery, but strictly to get the job done.

4) **"Quirkers"** — Well, you may not see many of these folks, but occasionally there are drivers on our highways who do not know where they are going and do not even know where they are! They just drive along in "La-La-Land," these "quirky" drivers whose minds were possibly left at home.

They are good folks — in fact if you stopped them you would probably enjoy visiting with them — they are just a tad "quirky."

It appears to me that most of these folks are Baptists. Now, if you go back and think about it,



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

you'll probably see one or two of them at church on Sunday morning. They fit in the same categories and they go to church like they drive on the highway — "Perkers," "Jerkers," and "Workers," and a small number of "Quirkers" — it's who we are.

Now it appears to me that we could draw some valuable help from some "highway etiquette."

◆ "Everybody goes at a different speed." Isn't it interesting that if you drive down any highway very long, you will probably pass somebody and more than likely, people will be passing you.

In church we often want everybody to be at the same place, have the same degree of understanding of the will of God, and to have the same reservoir of faith, and then to latch onto the same vision, but folks travel at different speeds!

◆ "People move at different speeds for a reason." As you travel down the highway it becomes clear that some people are going faster than others because

of their equipment, and others are going slower simply because they may want to drink in the sights around them. Some may be under time restraints and others may be enjoying a beautiful day.

When we gather at the church, there are some folks

there because they have a burning desire to experience God and to grow spiritually. Others attend church because the rest of the family does, and still others are drawn there out of a desire just to see their friends.

None of those are bad reasons, but it is clear that when we come to worship we may be traveling at different speeds.

◆ "Move along at a speed that is comfortable for you and give those around you the same perogative." From time to time, for various reasons, your speed may change. Those around you will do the same.

Cut them a little slack and hopefully they will do the same for you.

Galilee FBC celebrates 175th



Galilee First Church, Gloster, culminated a four-month celebration of its 175th anniversary on August 15 with a special two-hour service that included the dedication of a new baptismal (background) and presentation of commemorative plaques to pastor Sammy Smith (second from right) by William H. Perkins Jr. (left), editor of The Baptist Record representing the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Talmadge Smith (second from left), Lincoln Association director of missions representing the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission; and Alton Foster (right), director of missions for Mississippi Association, representing the association in which the church holds membership. (BR special photo)

SWBTS reorganizes undergraduate studies

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — By bringing its undergraduate programs under one roof, Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) hopes to enhance and expand theological education and ministerial training for ministers and laypeople.

As part of a reorganization, Bill Vinson, director of lay theological studies (LTS) and a seminary extension teacher since 1984, has been named director of undergraduate studies and will add to his LTS duties the diploma and advanced diploma studies programs, seminary studies for student wives, the seminary extension program, and certification for bivocational ministers.

"Dr. Vinson's becoming director of undergraduate studies brings possibilities for the enhancement of already strong programs and for new dimensions of theological training," said Southwestern President Kenneth S. Hemphill. "We want a renewed emphasis to our diploma and advanced diploma programs and the added dimension of bachelor degrees offered in cooperation between Southwestern and Dallas Baptist University or Southwestern and Criswell College."

He added that the Fort Worth, Texas,

seminary also will be offering a new ministry training program for ministers who have no seminary study.

Scotty Gray, Southwestern vice president for academic administration, said bringing the programs together will give "a new focus to that area."

Vinson "brings academic credentials, years of experience in teaching at Southwestern, and needed skills and understanding," Gray said.

"In my new responsibilities, I want to be student-centered rather than program-centered," Vinson said. "One of the things I really want to accomplish is to help students achieve what God is calling them to do."

LTS has three levels of study based on an individual's needs. The certificate of master's studies for laypersons, aimed at people with bachelor's degrees, covers the basic theological disciplines. Thirty hours are required to earn the certificate, and the credit can be applied toward a master of arts degree in lay ministry, which was recently approved by the Association of Theological Schools.

Lay theological studies offers seminary

extension courses for those who do not have a college degree. These classes can be applied to a certificate of lay studies. LTS also offers continuing education for people who want to continue their education but do not want to work toward a degree or certificate.

Unlike LTS, the diploma program offers an undergraduate program for students 25 years old or older entering the ministry after having served in a secular vocation. Agreements recently reached with Dallas Baptist University and Criswell College in Dallas will allow Southwestern students to pursue bachelor's degrees at those institutions.

Seminary studies for student wives includes a personal development course and five academic courses, all leading to a certificate of education and ministry.

"We want to graduate ministry teams," Vinson said, "to have the student and spouse both equipped for ministry so that they can work as a team."

Vinson also will be responsible for the certification for bivocational ministers program, which certifies a student in a course to assist in a secular field and provides other courses to aid in ministry.

Jesus Christ

Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Dunn, Jenkins, and Daniels

Crooked Creek Church, Lawrence Association, held deacon ordination on April 25 for Billy Ray Jenkins, son of Billy George and Nell Jenkins. He and his wife Cathy are the parents of two daughters. Pictured are Robert Dunn, interim pastor; Jenkins; and Darrel Daniels.

The North American Mission Board appointed Dee McCardle to serve as a church planter intern in Mt. Clemens,

Mich. She is working with the M a c o m b Association in Mount Clemens. McCardle is a native of Mississippi. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.



McCardle

Hattie Leatherwood was honored at Calvary Church, Corinth, with her 48th year of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Calvary Church celebrated its 45th anniversary on Aug. 1.

Daniel Brady Penton was licensed to the ministry on July 4 at New Life Church, Leaf. Pictured (from left) are Penton and Jerry Rawls, pastor.



Leatherwood



Penton and Rawls

Heart Strings of Hope

A Women's Conference with
Renee Coates Scheidt

Presented by:

The Women's Enrichment Ministry of
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Jackson, MS

October 1 & 2, 1999

Cost is \$25.00
(includes registration fee,
dinner Friday evening,
and conference materials)

For more information call
601-366-8433.
Registration deadline is
September 26, 1999.

STAFF CHANGES

Society Hill Church, Oakvale, has called Eric Davis, formerly of Wanilla Church, Lawrence County, as its youth minister.

David Grumbach has
VINYL SIDING
NO DOWN PAYMENT - 100% FINANCING
EXPERT WORK • BIG SAVINGS
• ROOM ADDITIONS
• SUNROOM
• BATH-DEN
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accepted the position of pastor at Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, effective Aug. 1. He previously served at Clarke-Venable Memorial Church, Decatur.

Grumbach is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and completed his master of divinity and doctor of ministry at New Orleans Seminary.



Grumbach

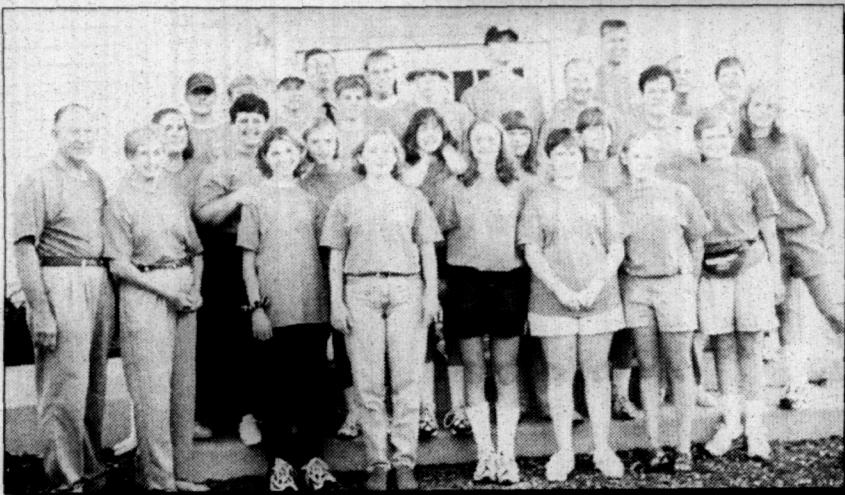
Univ. of Mobile sells Nicaragua branch campus

MOBILE, Ala. (ABP) — The Baptist-affiliated University of Mobile (UM) has found a buyer for its controversial Nicaraguan campus, officials have announced.

University President Mark Foley announced sale of the property July 31 to Ave Maria Institute, a small Catholic school in Ypsilanti, Mich. Officials did not disclose the sale price, but the Mobile Register reported it was several hundred thousand dollars.

The sale, which is expected to be finalized June 20, 2000, allows the University of Mobile to operate the school this year, but relieves the university of any financial liability.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



East End Church, Columbus, recently traveled to Lusby, Maryland, for youth mission '99. David England, minister to students, took 26 youth and adults on the mission trip. They ministered at Southern Calvert Church and Covenant Christian Fellowship. They also held Backyard Bible Clubs, did construction and landscaping, assisted in Vacation Bible School and conducted a "free" car wash for the community. The youth led 11 children to faith in Jesus Christ.

GOD FOR US will be presented at East Central Community College, Decatur, on Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. It is being presented by the combined adult choirs of Clarke-Venable Church, Decatur; and Hickory and First Church, Newton; with guest narrator and soloist Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. For more information, call Randy Cuchens, minister of music at First Church, Newton, at (601) 683-2066.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will dedicate its new parsonage (debt free) on Aug. 29 in the 11 a.m. service. The speaker will be Sonny Adkins, director of Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. This is the third building program completed by the church in its 11 years. Soloist will be Nay Bennett Reed. Dinner will be served in fellowship hall at noon.

Revival dates

Mashulaville, Macon: Aug. 29-Sept. 1; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, Mobile, Ala., evangelist.

Jayess, Jayess: Aug. 29-Sept. 2; services, Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; John C. Hilburn, Centerville, guest speaker; Lonnie J. Case, pastor.

Shiloh (Lawrence): Aug. 29; Jackie Cooke, former pastor, guest speaker; Paul Bird, music; lunch will be served followed by gospel singing with "Midnight Cry" from Lincoln County.

Siloam, Magee: Aug. 29; 11 a.m.; 106th anniversary; Mike Davis, former pastor, Collins, guest speaker; D. W. (Buddy) Mullins Jr. will present a gospel message in song at 1 p.m.; Gerald Aultman, pastor.

Moak's Creek (Lincoln): Aug. 29; 129th anniversary and dedication of the new church sign; regular morning services; covered dish lunch in fellowship hall; and 1:15 p.m. service; Billy J. Howse, pastor, preaching; Kennon Case, music.



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First Church, Eupora, celebrated the 35th anniversary of Bill Stewart as pastor of the church on Aug. 15. An afternoon reception was held in honor of him and his wife Bettye for 35 years of service to the church. The Stewart's three children, Hugh and Leah Bland and their children Rett and Stewart of Eupora; Lauren Stewart of Atlanta, Ga.; and Bill Stewart Jr. of Eupora, were present for the celebration.



The Stewarts

Jesus Saves Kid's Crusade will be held Aug. 28, 5 p.m., at the Covington-Jefferson Davis Associational Baptist Center for all children 12 years and under. The crusade, sponsored by Calhoun Church, Hot Coffee, will feature Worker's for Christ, "The Saints" cheerleading team, and magic ministry by Joey Harris. For more information, call (601) 733-9950.

Duncan Hill Church, Calhoun City, will celebrate its 100th year on Sept. 5. Services will be at 11 a.m. with a meal and fellowship to follow. Benny Hill is pastor. For more information, call (601) 628-5701.

Olive Church, Lumberton, will celebrate "100 years of Heritage and Hope" on Sept. 26. The service will begin at 10 a.m. with lunch served at noon, concluding with shared memories, singing, and testimonies in the afternoon. Viktor Roudkovski, a native of Kazakhstan, formerly a republic of USSR, a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary is pastor. For additional information, call (601) 796-4031 or 796-4435.

Hurley Church, Hurley, will have high attendance day for Sunday School and Discipleship Training on Aug. 29. Fred Wolfe will speak to the youth and adults during all Sunday services, beginning with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Wolfe will be guest speaker at the Pastor's Conference on Aug. 30, 9 a.m., at Hurley Church, followed by lunch and a service at 7 p.m. For more information call the church office at (228) 588-3435.



Fort Adams Baptist Mission, Mississippi Association, dedicated its new building (debt-free) on July 31 and Aug. 1. For years the Mission met in a Jim Walter house, but recently replaced the house with the present structure. Pictured (from left) are Gary Bunch, pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville; Alton Foster, director of missions, Mississippi Association; Howard Peak and Benny Still, former Mission pastors; Warren Whitaker, pastor, holding a certificate from the association.

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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Perceptive revelation

Genesis 44:18-20, 33-45:7

By Grant Arinder

Not I, but God. (41:16). Max Lucado once said, "The power of prayer is not in the one who prays, but the one who hears." His statement is a reminder that the source for successful Christian living is not found in ourselves, but God. It is not what we do that is important, but what God does through us, perhaps even in spite of us. Certainly the life of Joseph demonstrates this fact.

In Genesis Chapters 40 and 41, we read the account of Joseph being thrown in prison after the false accusations by Potiphar's wife. Eventually, the king's cup-

bearer and baker are also imprisoned. The cupbearer and baker had dreams on the same night and "each dream had a meaning of its own" (NIV). Joseph successfully interpreted the dreams and, just as he predicted, the cupbearer was restored to his service, but the baker was executed.

Two years later Pharaoh also had dreams that none of his wise men or magicians could interpret. At this point the cupbearer remembered Joseph in the prison and informed the king of Joseph's special gift.

Joseph was summoned before the king who told him, "I under-



Arinder

stand that you can interpret dreams." Joseph replied, "Not I, but God."

At first glance Joseph's reply to the king seems rather benign in the scope of the larger story. However, properly understood, this verse is the very key to interpreting Joseph's whole life.

At the end of Joseph's life he might have reflected on all the events that had shaped his life. Joseph's only response to such a journey would be, "Not I, but God. The dreams I had as a boy not I, but God. Being sold as a slave and going to Egypt not I, but God. Ending up in Potiphar's house not I, but God. Being falsely accused and thrown in prison where I met the cupbearer not I, but God. Interpreting Pharaoh's dreams not I, but God. Rising from an outcast Hebrew slave

to a king of Egypt not I, but God." The whole of Joseph's life is summed up in these words.

Not you, but God. (45:5-7). The Joseph narrative unfolds like a Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Sherlock Holmes mystery. the plot thickens and the tensions rise as Joseph's brothers unknowingly encounter the brother that they had plotted to kill.

Little did these brothers know that as they bowed to this unknown king who was actually their brother, that they were fulfilling one of Joseph's earlier dreams. When the emotion welled up in him and he could stand it no longer, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers.

The brothers had been terrified of this great king and now they were obviously afraid of how this brother/king may seek revenge. Yet again, we hear these familiar words echo, "Dear brothers, it was not you

who sent me here, but God."

These words spoken by Joseph are not only the key to understanding his life, they are also the key to all successful Christian living. When Moses was summoned to free his people he replied, "I can't do it." God said, "Not you, but I."

When David was summoned to battle the giant Goliath, Saul said, "You can't do it." David replied, "Not I, but God." Paul spent half of his life battling sin and trying to live a perfect life under the Law. He eventually learned this was impossible and said, "Not I, but God" (Gal. 2:20).

We must remember the words of Max Lucado and realize that the key to successful Christian living is not found in the question "How," but "Who." Joseph's simple words are yet very profound "Not I, but God."

Arinder is pastor of First Church, Belzoni.

LIFE AND WORK

The discipler's ministry

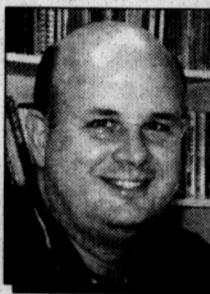
Acts 16:1-5; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:1-7

By Tony Martin

"Mentoring" is one of those trendy terms, a buzzword that gets casually tossed about in many different settings. Many years ago, craftsmen would take on apprentices to teach them how to work in wood or stone or precious metals.

Today, businesses use interns, grooming them for places of service. In education, many challenged students are partnered with an adult in a relationship that goes beyond tutoring... they're encouraged toward life skills.

These concepts are not all that far removed from Christian discipleship. Discipleship — which is simply one maturing believer investing themselves in



Martin

another maturing believer so that they, in turn, can develop other maturing believers — is not an option. More adults might be willing to invest themselves in ministry if someone would offer to disciple and equip them.

So... how does one become a discipler?

Mentor (Acts 16:1-4). We'll be spending some time with Timothy this week. Paul went to Derbe and then to Lystra, backtracking through their previous journey and along the way picked up Timothy. He was added to the team of Paul and Silas.

Paul then had Timothy circumcised, which seemed to contradict the decisions of the

Jerusalem Council in chapter 15, but because of Timothy's parentage — his mother was Jewish but his father was Greek — it was important that he not offend any of the church folks he'd be working with. This wasn't a matter of Timothy's salvation or character. Paul's concern was with Timothy's fitness for service.

In later years, Timothy played a crucial part in the spread and growth of the churches. He was able to serve because Paul had invested himself in Timothy, given him the tools to minister, and the opportunities to serve. To help other Christians become disciplers, we must be willing to mentor them.

Instruct (1 Timothy 1:18-19). Paul used some colorful military language ("fight the good fight") to get his point across. It wasn't easy for Timothy to serve God in a pagan place like Ephesus, but as any good soldier, he followed the orders

given him by his superior.

Paul didn't leave Timothy hanging, however; he used letters such as these for encouragement and instruction. He told Timothy that the only way he could succeed was by "holding on to faith and a good conscience."

If we're to disciple other Christians, we need to instruct them in the truth. Paul offered one-on-one instruction through conversations and writing. We can use those same tools to help grow others to maturity.

Encourage (1 Timothy 4:11-16). Paul, in verse 15, hopes that "everyone may see your progress." He was encouraging Timothy in the same way a parent might brag on a child: "Look what a great job you're doing in math!"

The word progress, as used here, is a Greek military term which means "pioneer advance." In other words: Timothy, you're making it possible for others to follow — lead the charge!

Timothy was encouraged to emphasize God's Word, use his

spiritual gifts, and be a fully devoted follower of Christ. Then, as now, being a Christian is difficult. Paul was a great encourager of his young friend. We — as well as those we work with — need to be encouraged and affirmed in the same way.

Enable (2 Timothy 2:1-3). I used to quote 2 Timothy 2:2 so often to kids in my youth groups over the years, they came to call it "Two-tee-two-two." Our ministry is not something God gives us and we then keep to ourselves. We should get our "marching orders" from God's Word. Then, as stewards of that Word, we share it with others, equipping them to pass it along to further generations.

Every generation of Christians from the disciples on down — ourselves included — are beneficiaries of this enabling heritage.

Are you "qualified to teach others?" Being a discipler should be the goal of every Christian.

Martin is minister of education at First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Sinful church members

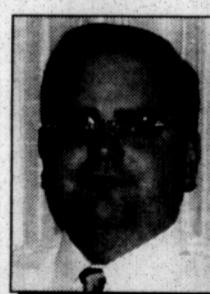
2 Cor. 12:14-13:14

By Ted Dukes

When I was an undergraduate at Mississippi College I lived in the dorm next door to a guy who fell prey to a practical joke. Someone removed the doornails from his door and replaced them with number two pencils. For days he experienced increasing difficulty opening and closing his door.

I watched one day as he lifted his door to close it and go to class. He paused to examine the hinges and I heard him say, "Here's the problem! The pencils are coming out!" He proceeded to pound the pencils back into the hinges.

He was choosing to treat the symptom instead of the cause of his trouble.



Dukes

confusion existed in Corinth (12:20).

It may have been that some wished Paul would not visit them at all so that the furor could die down and their church might know peace. The Apostle knew what so many church members would deny: real peace only comes on the heels of successfully navigating through the sin to reach the Savior.

While some may have bought a temporary peace by sweeping the problems under the rug, Paul's desire was to solve the problems and strengthen the church. Therein lies the difference between the commonly-occurring peace lover and the rare peacemaker, of whom our Lord spoke in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:9).

I am quite sure that Paul was dreading certain aspects of his impending visit to Corinth every bit as much as these church mem-

bers were, but following God does not always lead us along the smooth paths of life. So, Paul warns them to get ready (13:1-4).

The troublemakers in the church had accused Paul of, among other things, being a weak leader (10:7-11). While it is true that he preferred to be gentle and humble (1:24), Paul assured them that he would not hold back in solving these problems (13:2-3).

Paul painted the picture of a soldier refusing to give quarter to an enemy on the battlefield. He called the faithful to examine themselves (13:5-8) to make sure that Jesus lived in their hearts and that the Holy Spirit was evident in their lives (Romans 8:9, 16). His advise is well-tailored to our need today.

No doubt many of the problems in the Corinthian church were caused by counterfeit Christians, those who looked like wheat but were in fact weeds (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43).

They professed to be saved, but had never repented and trusted Jesus Christ.

Our churches are filled with such people today, those who have grown old in the Lord, but have never grown up in the Lord. Because of their apparent maturity and standing in the community they have been entrusted with great responsibility in the church, but they are reprobate (13:6-7).

No outward show of righteousness can create an inward reality of redemption. The transformation begins with Jesus and is something we can know beyond a shadow of doubt has occurred in our lives (1 John 5:11-14).

Paul wrote to encourage the Corinthians to go back to the fundamental reasons for their relationship with the church and make sure it was built on the right foundation - Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11).

Dukes is pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

Kids Page



Bibliocipher

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AHQME ULMIQTHMX LI
XPQG SHCB XPQME,
XPDX PH NPQUP PDXP
AHEFM D ELLT NLCW QM
BLF NQKK RHCILCI QX
FMXQK XPH TDB LI
VHGFG UPCQGX.
RPQRQRQDMG LMH:
GQO

Clue: E = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Colossians One: Twenty-One.

VBS robbery provides lesson on praying

NORTH SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP) — "It's an amazing thing. Even the police are surprised," pastor Mike Hamlet said after recovering every item that was taken in a late night robbery at First Church, North Spartanburg, S.C.

"If there's ever been a case of 'they meant it for evil, but God meant it for good,' this is one," Hamlet added. "The kids in our Vacation Bible School (VBS) and our members prayed." God answered their prayers, he asserted.

Thieves broke in July 20 through a temporary construction wall after the second day of the church's Vacation Bible School. In addition to electronic equipment — VCRs, television cameras, televisions, and microphones — they took everything that was on stage, including a four-man tent, cooler, and sleeping bags which were part of the "Mt. Extreme" VBS's opening assembly.

"They even took a sack of toys and went through the VBS's lost and found box," Hamlet noted.

The next morning, Hamlet and VBS workers told the kids what had happened and urged them to pray for the items to be returned, and for the robbers.

On Wednesday evening at the weekly meeting of Sunday school workers, Hamlet assured more than 300 present, "Folks, I'm disappointed and upset, but this has reminded me what we're all about. Our greatest asset is our people, and this Sunday, you won't see anything different in our worship. We may have lost some equipment, but our mission has not been deterred."

"The people were wonderful," Hamlet shared, noting they also were urged to pray for the return of the church's property.

Police officers who dusted for fingerprints explained to church officials this was a difficult case, because usually, stolen electronic goods are sold very quickly.

That evening, however, police followed up on a tip when someone noticed a suspicious truck and some men camping in what appeared to be the stolen tent.

Thursday morning, Hamlet was called by the sheriff's department to identify the church's property. "We got it all back. Everything. Every last bit of it," he rejoiced.

"When I told the VBS kids at 11:30 a.m., they went wild. A lot of them were quiver-

ing. They cheered about getting the equipment back. And we told them that the power of their prayers made the difference.

"The robbers messed with the wrong people," Hamlet quipped. "I'm not talking about me or First Baptist Church, but hundreds of children praying."

VBS RESULTS

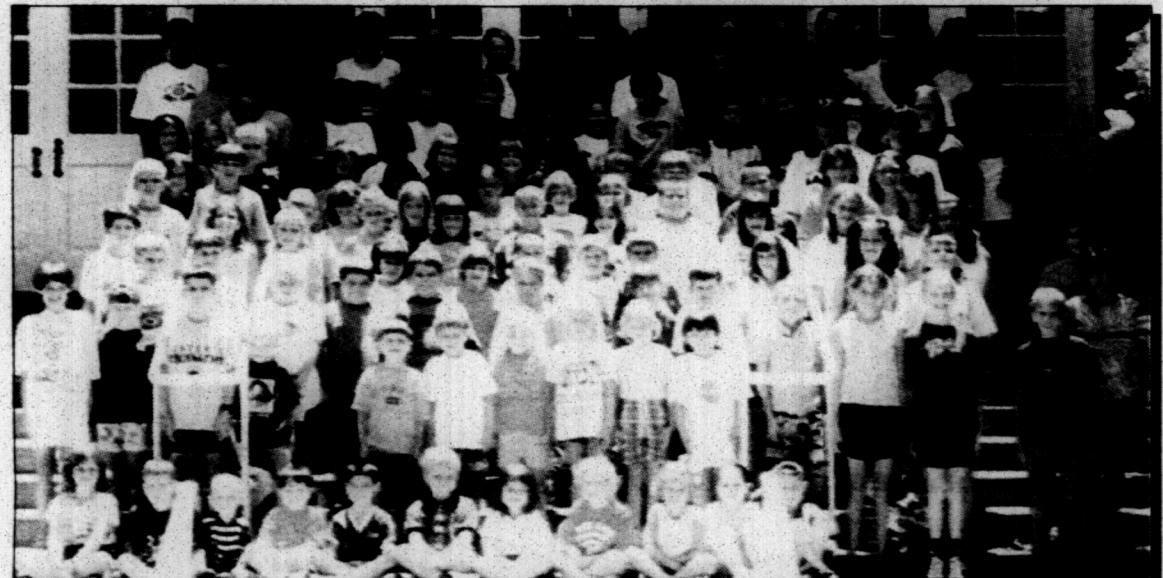
Parkway Church, Houston: Aug. 1-5; enrolled, 189; average attendance, 154; professions of faith, eight; Gregg Thomas, pastor; and Lisa Thomas, VBS director.

Cash Church, Lena, held Vacation Bible School on June 7-12. The director was Tiffany Gunn. Lester McNair is pastor.

First Church, Crystal Springs: recently held VBS. The sixth graders had an adventure at Rapids Waterpark.



Cash Church, Lena VBS



First Church, Crystal Springs VBS

Students challenged to be campus CrossSeekers

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Southern Baptist students were challenged to "share the greatest news in the world on the greatest mission field in the world," the college campus,

during the Aug. 8-13 Student Conference at Glorieta (N.M.), a LifeWay Conference Center.

"God is doing something very special on college campuses," Bill Henry, director of national student ministries of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, told the more than 1,600 students and leaders attending the week. He noted that 14.5 million students are currently studying on U.S. campuses and that number is expected to increase to 18 million by 2005.

He challenged students to commit to being agents of spiritual transformation as CrossSeekers, a six-point discipleship covenant emphasizing integrity, spiritual growth, witness, service, purity, and Christlike relationships. Since the 1998 launch of CrossSeekers, Henry said more than 15,000 students have signed the CrossSeekers covenant at national student events, with many others making the commitment at state and local conferences and rallies.

While the CrossSeekers discipleship initiative is new, he said the preamble to the covenant was written 75 years

ago by Frank Leavell, the first leader of Southern Baptist student work. It states:

"As a seeker of the cross of Christ, I am called to break away from trite, nonchalant, laissez-faire Christian living. I accept the challenge to divine daring, to consecrated recklessness for Christ, to devout adventure in the face of ridiculing contemporaries."

In addition to becoming CrossSeekers, Henry urged students to participate in covenant or accountability groups to encourage and support one another. Also, he noted that interactive studies are available on each point of the CrossSeekers covenant.

Authors of three of the books spoke at other sessions during the week.

Rod Handley, chief operating officer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and author of "CrossSeekers: Transparent Living," challenged students to "invest your life in God, his word and people. These are the developers and revealers of integrity."

A love relationship with God must be nurtured through a daily quiet time, he said, urging students to develop a relation-

ship with a fellow Christian who will hold them accountable for following Christ.

"Men, do you have a true brother holding you accountable? Women, do you have a sister walking by your side? The only thing we can do successfully by ourselves is fail. When you are accountable, your character and integrity will be greatly enhanced," Handley said.

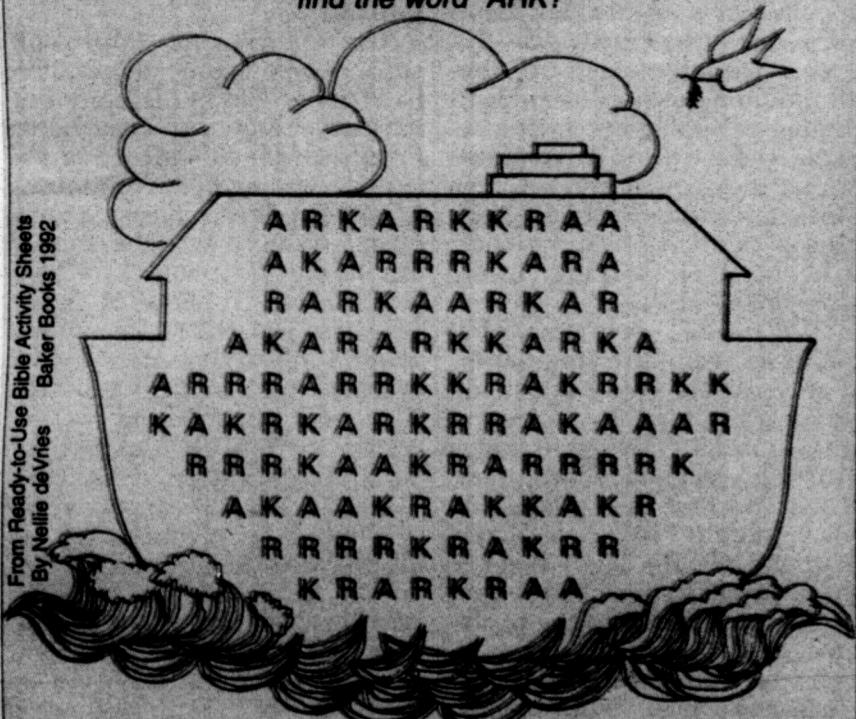
Keith Miller, author of "Soul Food for Relationships," a book that deals with the Christlike relationships point of the CrossSeekers covenant, said people today are looking for something real, and that religion too often is not real.

"Kids are not looking for dead religion," said Miller, also author of the 1970s bestseller, "Taste of New Wine." "They're looking for something that's going to live. I love you [college students] because you're getting real. I've been waiting for this for years."

Christians all too often paint a picture of themselves as being without the problems of the world, said Miller. "We're not people without problems," he said, "We're people who know what to do with them."

NOAH'S ARK

Noah built an ark of gopher wood (Gen. 6:14)
Up, down, across, or diagonally — how many times can you find the word "ARK?"



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